

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716) 843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

May 28, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. JOHN GEORGE SIRACUSA

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that John G. Siracusa, an attorney, age 52, of 251 Randwood Drive, Williamsville, New York, was sentenced by United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara to 39 months imprisonment. Siracusa pled guilty to obstruction of justice on November 14, 2003.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth M. Harmon and Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Gillmeister said Siracusa admitted that, while a federal grand jury in Colorado was investigating the roles of Siracusa and others in a \$4.2 million scheme to defraud investors with so-called "prime bank notes" and "prime bank guarantees," Siracusa intentionally submitted false and misleading documents to that grand jury. Judge Arcara deferred entering a restitution order pending further identification of victims, but the prosecutors said restitution could be as much as \$4.2 million.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the supervision of Phillip B.J. Reid, Special Agent in Charge, Denver Division, and the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service under the supervision of James D. Vickery, Special Agent in Charge, Denver Field Office.

* * *